THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation since Rabi 1999-2000 in the country and the same in continuing at present. A Pilot Project on Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS) was launched in Rabi 2003-04 and Kharif 2004 seasons in the selected districts/States. But based on the findings on the Concurrent Evaluation Study undertaken by an independent agency and the recommendations of the Joint Group constituted to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes, it has been discontinued with effect from rabi 2004-05 season. Some general insurance companies are implementing Rainfall Insurance Schemes on their own.

(c) and (d) A Joint Group was constituted by the Government to suggest the improvements required in the crop insurance schemes. The Joint Group has since submitted its report and the Government is consulting Stakeholders regarding these recommendations.

Closing the Kisan Call Centres

†475. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have closed the Kisan Call Centres providing agriculture related information;

(b) if so, the reasons for closing these centres;

(c) whether Government have made any alternative arrangement for providing information related to agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) do not arise.

Crop Loss in Vidarbha

476. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.